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THE CHALLENGE:

Boost Production; Save Lives, Health

By ROBERT B. LAGATHER
Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health

The coal mining community enters the 1980's facing a challenge. The nation must produce more energy; President Carter has called for doubling coal output by 1985. At the same time, we must insure that increased production is not achieved at the expense of the lives and health of the nation's miners.

The community facing this challenge is one that has become vastly more sophisticated since the days when mine disasters took thousands of lives a year and risks to miners' health were almost totally ignored. Technology has transformed the mine environment, increased productivity and improved safety and health conditions. Industry, labor, and government are increasingly working together to protect the lives and health of the miners on whom production depends.

A year and a half ago, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 consolidated Federal mine safety and health enforcement under one law and moved the enforcement agency to the Department of Labor to become the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Based on experience, the 1977 Act revised and extended many provisions of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. Behind these changes lay Congress's recognition that everyone concerned must work in constant cooperation if mining-related deaths, injuries and illness are to be prevented.

Accordingly, the Act required safety and health training for all miners and gave stronger roles to miners' representatives. It required prompt rulemaking in several critical areas and improved rulemaking procedures to allow maximum participation from the entire mining community under a strict timetable.

Besides meeting rulemaking requirements in the Act, MSHA has established an office to coordinate all rulemaking procedures. We have sought early participation from labor and industry by circulating pre-proposal drafts of many regulations and have issued bulletins to clarify final rules.

Most of the regulations Congress required in the Act have now been issued or proposed. Of particular importance to the coal industry have been the mandatory training regulations, requirements for self-contained self-rescuers, and the proposed rule on mine rescue teams at underground operations.

We at MSHA have been impressed by the comments we have received during work on these regulations. Thoughtful comment from industry, labor and other knowledgeable sources is essential to insure effective, efficient regulation. We anticipate continued participation from labor and industry as we continue work on the recently-proposed rule

(Continued on page 15)

NEXT 20 YEARS

Ford Fund Advocates Balance with Coal

By STUART MAGOWAN

WASHINGTON — Curious contradictions abound in Washington, and nowhere are they more evident than in energy issues. One of the strangest of these paradoxes is the fact that a new energy publication — one of the most comprehensive and constructive yet published, and written by an outstanding team of experts in energy-related fields — has received little press or public attention in the two wesks since its appearance.

"Energy — The Next Twenty Years," is a report of findings by a group of 19 prominent authors. The group was organized by Resources for the Future, whose Hans H. Landsberg, director of Resource for the Future's Center for Energy Policy Research, chaired the study panel.

Perhaps most important in the support for the report was the funding provided by the Ford Foundation, which is officially listed as the "sponsor" of the project.

The report is startling in that it reaches conclusions diametrically opposed to those of the 1974 report, "A Time to Choose: America's Energy Future," a widely publicized and quoted study which was also produced with the sponsorship of the Ford Foundation.

It is possible that the apparent lack of interest in this latest report is due to the fact that its publication comes hard on the heels of the issuance of two other highly touted energy studies — "Energy Future," a report of the Harvard Business School energy policy project, and "Energy in America's Future: The Choices Before Us."

Robert Stobaugh, who with Daniel

(Continued on page 2)

WHAT'S NEWS...

The latest Ford Foundation report — "Energy — The Next Twenty Years" — appears diametrically opposite its 1974 report, "A Time to Choose: America's Energy Future." (Page 1)

Robert B. Lagather, Assistant Secretary of Labor, finds industry and labor compliance with the revised Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to be a step in the right direction although tough problems remain to be solved. (Page 1)

President Carter, speaking in the heart of Ohio's coalfields, called on the nation to prod Congress to pass his energy program and beat the oil industry's lobbying efforts. (Page 1)

The battle over high-sulfur coal continues hot and heavy between Ohio and the Federal EPA. (Page)

The American Industrial Health Council warns that the coal industry may be indirectly hit by new OSHA standards applying to utilities and other industries. (Page 14)

E.B. Leisenring, Jr., challenges those who attack coal as being "dirty, dangerous and unreliable." (Page 19)

Pictures from the 1979 "World Series of Safety," Sept. 20 & 21, at Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center in Louisville. (Pages 12 & 13)

Facts & Figures, a comprehensive statistical analysis of the industry at home and abroad. (Pages 16, 17 & 18)

Who's News. (Pages 6, 7 & 8)
What's New. (Pages 9, 10 & 11)
Noted Briefly. (Page 24)

New Center Vacuum
Carbide Roof Bit
Drills rock so fast, we almost called it "The Butter Bit"
Ask for a test
A little bit of yellow goes a long way
KENNAMETAL
B79 137

Carter Lays Blame on Congress

By MIKE MYER

Congress and oil companies — not the Carter Administration, are to blame for the lack of a consistent, effective national energy policy with an emphasis on coal, President Carter said during a recent visit to the heart of Ohio's coalfields.

Carter, addressing more than 1,500 people at a "town meeting" recently in Steubenville, urged public pressure on Congress to pass the Administration's energy proposals.

Those proposals should increase the nation's dependence on coal to the point that domestic coal use will triple by 1995, Carter said.

Speaking of the United States' heavy dependence on imported oil and his plan to replace much of that with fuel created from coal and other sources, Carter told those at the meeting:

"Our country's basic security —

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